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ultimate consanguinity of all sentient beings, and addresses himself to the task of arousing in man a greater feeling of sympathy for his fellow creatures. The argument falls under three heads: man's physical relation to other animals, his psychical similarity to them in certain fundamental ways, and hence his ethical kinship. The author concludes that the fact "that vertebrate animals, differing in externals as widely as herring and Englishmen, are all built according to the same fundamental plan, with marrow-filled backbones and exactly two pairs of limbs branching in the same way, is an astonishing coincidence"; hence the fancied superiority of the human race is but a figment of man's mind for "man is not a god, nor in any imminent danger of becoming one."

While agreeing with the author that "the art of being kind" is in sore need of cultivation among us, one cannot but be amused at the mixture of fact and error, observation and travelers' tales, seriousness of statement and straining after absurd expressions, that characterizes this not unreadable book.

G. M. A.

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## ZOÖLOGY

**Pratt's Vertebrate Zoölogy.**<sup>1</sup>—In continuation of the plan of his *Invertebrate Zoölogy*, published some three or four years ago, Dr. Pratt now offers a similar guide to the dissection of vertebrates, which would appear to merit the same favorable reception accorded to the earlier volume. As a guide to vertebrate dissection its chief claim to usefulness over the already existing laboratory manuals on the subject lies perhaps in the fact that it includes under one cover those forms most frequently employed in American laboratories, for descriptions of which the teacher or student has formerly found it necessary to refer to two or three separate works. Outlines are furnished for the dissection of seven types, *viz.*: dogfish, perch, mud-puppy (*Necturus*), frog, turtle, pigeon, and cat. Of these, that of *Necturus* will probably be especially acceptable, since it is a form commonly

<sup>1</sup> Pratt, Henry Sherring. *A Course in Vertebrate Zoölogy. A Guide to the Dissection and Comparative Study of Vertebrate Animals.* Boston, Ginn and Co., 1905. 8vo, x + 299 pp.

employed for laboratory work in connection with courses on comparative vertebrate anatomy, and heretofore no published outline for its dissection has been generally accessible.

The question as to the practical and pedagogical value of manuals of this nature remains, as before, an individual one with different teachers. In respect to method of treatment the present outlines offer few innovations; but apparently the attempt has been made to have them as practical as possible, so that they may, if it is desired, be placed in the student's hand with little or no modification. To this end the descriptions are made rather fuller than some instructors might consider desirable, especially those who believe that laboratory outlines should consist merely of a framework of directions as to the method of proceeding to work, together with suggestive questions, rather than a description of what the student is expected to see. Dr. Pratt has largely overcome this objection by the relatively great number of original drawings called for. Satisfactory drawings insure that the student has seen what is described, and the omission of all illustrations from the book will make him dependent upon his own observations in supplying these.

L. J. C.

**Stephens's California Mammals**<sup>1</sup> is a handbook written to popularize the study of the rich mammalian fauna of that State. In addition to a brief description of each species with a statement of its distribution, the author has given a number of field notes on the forms that have come under his personal observation. The accounts of the Cetacea are taken from Scammon as the author has had no experience with them. The nomenclature used for these animals is in some cases not that now in vogue. The scientific names of the species considered, are followed by the name of the authority as usual, but the author tells us that he has omitted the parentheses in all cases where they are usually employed. This seems a mistake in a work of this sort. The chapter on life zones is accompanied by a chart showing the location of these areas. A check-list and glossary are followed by a very complete index. Several rather characterless wash drawings serve as full page illustrations.

The work can be but preliminary, the author states, but undoubtedly it will be of value as a basis for a more thorough investigation.

G. M. A.

<sup>1</sup> Stephens, F. *California Mammals*. San Diego, Cal., West Coast Publishing Co., 1906. 8vo, 351 pp., illus. \$3.50.